



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/764,903	01/26/2004	Troy Miller	3010.2.2CIP	2320
7590	03/24/2005		EXAMINER	
Starkweather & Associates 9035 S 1300 E Suite 200 Sandy, UT 84094			CONLEY, FREDRICK C	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3673	

DATE MAILED: 03/24/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/764,903	Applicant(s) MILLER, TROY
	Examiner FREDRICK C CONLEY	Art Unit 3673

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 December 2004.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) 6-11 is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-3 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) 4 and 5 is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |
|---|---|

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

Claim 1 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 1 recites the limitation "the outer edge". There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. It is also unclear what is meant by the Applicants use of the term "disposition" therefore the claim is confusing and indefinite.

Claim 6, recites "the U-shaped base and handle are in planes substantially perpendicular to the planes of the U-shaped base and U-shaped handle". The claim is confusing and indefinite since it is unclear if the U-shaped handle is claimed as being perpendicular to itself.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated U.S. Pat. No. 6,311,942 to Rotter.

Claim 1, Rotter discloses a device for assisting a user in getting into and out of sitting and prone positions on a bed, the device comprising;

a planar base member 12 configured to fit between the mattress and box spring of the bed;

a receiving portion 15 having a coupling device 17;

an adjustable handle (30,32), including a plurality of apertures arrayed in serial fashion that are configured to correspond to the coupling device, such that a vertical disposition of the adjustable handle is adjustable by selectively inserting the receiving portion into the adjustable handle so that the coupling device fits into one of the apertures (col. 3 lines 45-52); and

a connector 20 designed to connect the receiving portion to the base member, comprising at least two C-shaped bracket portions, which bracket portions encompass an outer edge of the planar base member. Encompass is defined as to have as an integral part thus the C-shaped bracket portions of Rotter meet the claim

limitations as stated above since the bracket portions encompass or are an integral part of an outer edge of the planar base member as

Claim 2, wherein the bracket including inherently has apertures for receiving bolts, which also pass though corresponding apertures in the base member.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over 6,311,942 to Rotter et al. in view of U.S. Pat. No. 4,932,090 to Johansson.

Claim 3, Rotter discloses an assistance device for assisting a user in getting into and out of various body positions on a piece of furniture comprising:
a base 12 having a horizontal and vertical dimension configured to fit under a cushion-type portion of the furniture;
a handle 38 rotatably coupled to at least one leg extending downwardly therefrom; and
a locking device 17 configured to maintain the at least one leg in a fixed vertical position. Rotter fails to disclose at least one leg having a first end rotatably attached to the base to extend vertically and configured to rotate along a plane that is perpendicular to the horizontal dimension of the base and a handle rotatably coupled to a second end of the at least one leg; and a locking device functionally coupled to the at least one leg,

and desired to maintain the at least one leg in a fixed vertical position and to allow rotation of the at least one leg. Johansson discloses an assistance device having one leg 42 with a first end rotatably attached and extending vertically and configured to rotate along a plane that is perpendicular to a horizontal dimension. It would have been obvious for one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention have the leg rotatably attached in order to provide angular movement, and lock in individual angular positions as desired.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 6-11 allowed.

Claims 4-5 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-3 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to FREDRICK C CONLEY whose telephone number is 703-308-7468. The examiner can normally be reached on M-TH.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, HEATHER SHACKELFORD can be reached on 703-308-2978. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Art Unit: 3673

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

FC



HEATHER SHACKELFORD
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600